

Guidance on Quality Management Programs

Facilities should be aware of a fundamental change in the concept of a quality management program. A quality management program requires individuals working with radiographic equipment to be aware of radiographic technique factors during patient examinations as well as the imaging system itself. A basic practice of radiologic technology is to keep occupational and patient dose as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA). ALARA can be achieved by one or more of the following factors:

1. Using proper radiographic technique to keep patient dose low; yet, maintain good image quality.
2. Using the correct film/screen combination.
3. Implementing proper processor maintenance which includes; changing chemicals, cleaning the processor, and checking temperature.

The facility has the responsibility for directing the operation of the x-ray systems under their administrative control. The operation of x-ray systems requires an appropriate technique chart, written or electronic, be available for the technologist's use. This should be reviewed by your state or private inspector during the inspection. As more equipment is being installed with solid state image receptors, facilities should adjust their technique factors to accommodate the lower radiation exposures while maintaining good diagnostic image quality.

Revision History

Date	Summary of Changes
03/09/2016	Original document created.
10/4/2022	Document amended to remove paragraph on registration fees and retitle document to "Guidance on Quality Management Programs".

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